REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to amend the abstract and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3 through 16, 19, and 23 through 27.

Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Michael B. Lasky at (952) 253-4106.

Respectfully submitted,

Altera/Law/Group,

Customer No. 22865

Date: January 27, 2004

Michael B. Lasky

Reg. No. 29,555

MBL/blj